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its first edition. It contains a brief review of the anatomy and physiology of the female generative organs, the order of procedure throughout pregnancy, labor, and the nursing of the puerperal period, the care of the infant, and of the patient during obstetrical complications, with an appendix on the making of solutions and the technic of sterilization.

FOUR EPOCHS OF LIFE. By Elizabeth Hamilton-Muncie, M.D., Ph.M. Greaves Publishing Co., New York City.

Dr. Hamilton-Muncie has evidently learned by experience how hard a matter it is to induce people to read, and encourage the reading of books dealing with the sex question. In her present volume she presents the subject very slightly disguised as a story, a romance if you like, embodying the life of two young graduates from a medical school, who, having taken time to fall deeply in love with each other while in pursuit of scientific training and medical degrees, decide to start in 'life as partners in their profession and also as man and wife. "Aunt Mehitabel" is made to utter all the disagreeable warnings which are supposed to be right and proper for the occasion; but they persist, in spite of such grim facts as invisible means of support, youth, inexperience, lack of patients, but they turn some of these things to account, and bring in others which Aunt Mehitabel counted of no value, and so they start in to face life together.

The story suffers terribly at the expense of the burden it is made to carry of hospital cases, college lectures, lectures to the Y.M.C.A., school-boards, and what not; lectures that bear the actual purpose of the book, and which deal with the sex question and its presentation to children and young people in a most able manner. For those who wish to present to their children the true principles of life there could be no more unique and beautiful early teaching than the spring time nature stories, telling of "father stamens and mother pistil" and the wee seed babies rocked in their tiny cradles; the story of the "Bean-baby," "the Pea-baby;" the stories that the March wind brought of "little Miss Hepatica and her sister Miss Anemone;" the comments of "Mr. Birch;" "The story of the Marsh Marigold;" "About the furry hoods and golden hair of the Pussy Willow babies; and how the Dandelion lost his hair." These for the first lessons, to be followed, as the children grow, by stories of how the wee fishes are born; of little Miss Stickleback, of the "Frogs and Tadpoles;" "Mrs. Oriole discusses parental duties with Mr. and Mrs. Blue-jay;" "Mr. Robin's care of his wife and children;" "Mother Nature's carefulness."

When the wee twin brother and sister have acquired an intelligent

idea of the reproduction of living things, they are promoted to share with their father and mother the responsibility and expectation of a possible increase in the family circle, and are informed of a baby sister or brother who is to come to them later. The news affects them, as one might expect, quite differently; the girl at once claiming the privilege of sharing in the mothering, helping to make the tiny clothes, etc., the boy awaking to a sense of his responsibility, the chivalry in him touched to the quick, and the "man-soul" aroused.

With the education of the twins the author unfolds her scheme for the education of boys and girls: Co-education, with a year longer for the girl to complete the same course as her brother, in order to allow three days off in each month for the girl. The author advocates rest from all mental activity during menstrual days, substituting on those days congenial and amusing, but passive occupations. When the governess voices an objection to this manner of pursuing a preparatory college course, the father answers that whether the time be long or short, it will bestow upon the girl powers of endurance, and a strong body, so that what she may lose in time for study now, will be atoned for by extension of youth and unimpaired mentality at the far end of her life."

For the boy, his mother claims a co-educational institution particularly important. "Lewis has always been taught that nothing so marks the true gentleman as courtesy toward the opposite sex, and we cannot afford to have him attend a college where this teaching will be lessened through association with the masculine element only." "Each sex needs association with the other for an all-round development of faculties. It is true that in certain studies girls excel, while boys show greater aptitude in others. These differences are again a result of accumulative inheritance, resulting from environment. They are rapidly being outgrown and will soon reach the level of individual differences rather than sex differences, as they are now supposed to be." So they are sent off to a co-educational college, the boy and the girl as well, in spite of the protest of Aunt Mehitabel who voices the prejudice of popular opinion in a stern remonstrance: "Better put her in a school where she will study books instead of boys. She'll be getting engaged by the time she graduates if you put her into what you call a 'co-educational college.'"

Aunt Mehitabel's counsel goes unheeded, and the girl goes to college and repeats her mother's history by graduating and at once adopting matrimony as a calling; so strong is heredity. In fact, there is every reason to believe that her mother looked ahead to just such a culmination of her educative plans and very much favored the idea of her daughter choosing a husband from among her own equals in points of age, intelli-

gence, and education. So the story of the book ends where it commences, with two young people starting out to meet the four epochs in life: Infancy, Childhood, Adolescence, and Maturity.

The story is, however, only the bait with which to catch the reader. By far the most valuable part of the book is contained in the early lessons to the young children and the later lectures to high school boys and girls and young men and women. Dr. Muncie is in favor of more drastic treatment of the danger to public health and morals which our present laws and established customs permit. Among radical changes she advocates the reporting of venereal diseases as infectious diseases are reported, and the insistence of a certificate of health for all applicants for a marriage license.